

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP PROGRAM
INSTALLATION

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HQ, Fort Emerson
New York, 10305
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ATSC-TE-RD

SUBJECT: Contemporary Worship Program

1. PROBLEM. To determine whether contemporary worship programs should be provided in existing chapels or in a modified chapel(s).

2. ASSUMPTIONS.

a. Contemporary worship opportunities will appeal to the needs and interests of military personnel, their dependents and authorized civilians not presently being addressed by traditional worship programs. (par i-8, Ch 10, Sec IV, Vol II, FORSCOM COP)

b. Contemporary worship services augmenting traditional worship services will increase over-all effectiveness of the Chapel program by involving single-soldier, youth, and other adults.

3. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM.

a. Current participation of single soldiers in Chapel Services is approximately 4.5% of the target population.

b. Of the 15 installation chapels, 14 presently offer only traditional religious services, and 1 (Chapel #5) is used for special or occasional services and meetings.

c. Contemporary innovations in worship employ the use of a variety of art forms to include live and recorded music, slides, films, religious drama and dance, and varied seating arrangements for participants using circular, semi-circular, or other groupings.

d. Existing chapels as equipped and furnished restrict any innovative approaches to worship. (see Annex A Contemporary Worship).

4. DISCUSSION.

a. Advantages to modifying and equipping one chapel(s) for contemporary worship are as follows: (These are, concurrently, disadvantages of the existing chapel furnishings and equipment). *could be clearer*

(1) Provides full flexibility for various formats by use of portable chairs/furnishings and complete audio/visual capability.

(2) Encourages chaplains and laity to employ and focus their varied talents in creative worship programs.

(3) Gives greater visibility to innovative worship program as "Chapel in the Round"

(4) Cost to modify and equip one chapel(s) for full contemporary worship is considerably less than up-grading audio/visual capabilities of all chapels.

b. The advantage of initiating contemporary worship in the several installation chapels would be to diversify the program throughout the installation. (Concurrently, a disadvantage of one "Chapel in the Round").

c. For details see Annex A (Contemporary Worship).

5. CONCLUSION. Using currently available funding and local resources, Chapel #5 (cantonnement type) should be modified according to specifications in Annex B and to be renamed "Chapel in the Round" as the center for the contemporary worship program at Fort Emerson.

6. ACTION RECOMMENDED. That the conclusion in paragraph 5 be approved.

Ramon E Hunt

RAMON E. HUNT
Chaplain (MAJ) USA

ANNEXES: A--Contemporary Worship
B--Specifications for Modification of Chapel #5

CONCURRENCES.

SMs CH (LTC) Stanton, Plans & Programs, ICHO ext 3340

JFK CH (MAJ) Kirk, Budget & Property, ICHO ext 3350

LFO Mr. Davis, Facilities Engineers Office, ext 6671

NONCONCURRENCE. None

ANNEXES ADDED: None

ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY:

Approved (disapproved) including (excluding) exceptions.



ANNEX A



CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

1. ASSUMPTIONS AND RATIONALE

Contemporary worship is an attempt to relate the worship of God to persons for whom traditional forms do not speak or communicate. It recognizes the differences in persons: their previous experiences, tastes, preferences and needs. It is based in the conviction that we need to accept numerous ways of praising God and of being aware of his presence in the world.

In worship, as in all forms of communication, there is no substitute for "knowing the audience," which is as varied as the bands of coloration in a political spectrum. Each individual brings preferences and appreciations in music, art, poetry, and praise. To try to reconcile all of these groups into worshiping God in the same way is frustrating and impossible.

Contemporary worship is an alternative to traditional worship only in the sense that it offers a greater variety and range of worship expressions. Each act and form of worship requires the same care and discipline, the same sense of awe and reverence, equal care in theological thought, rationale and creativity. The chaplaincy and the laity, then, seek not contemporary worship formats for the sake of change, as a form of faddism, but in order to communicate, in an idiom that is appropriate to the persons concerned, the authentic praises, petitions, thanksgivings and celebrations of God's loving and redeeming actions in the world. As contemporary celebrations are developed and made available along-side the traditional liturgies, the greater will be the involvement of all ages and more effective will be the chapel program. *1 audience*

2. STYLE AND SHAPE

Contemporary worship speaks through contemporary liturgies and media in a contemporary style. Such media as electronic sounds, film, drama, dance, banner art, live poetry and music and dialogue are used in settings of face to face encounter. The traditional sermon may become a short play, a discussion between leader and people or a message in color-slide, poetry and music. The worship setting in the chapel, then, must provide

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flexibility for formats which existing facilities do not provide. For example, the pews, pulpit, lecturn, altar and choir stalls in each of the Fort Emerson chapels are attached to the floor which precludes any alternate seating or room arrangements. Furthermore, the chapels cannot be darkened for the presentation of films or dramas nor are they equipped with adequate sound, projection or lighting systems to support a comprehensive range of methods or forms. Flexibility in settings which allow the worshippers to sit in a circle around a central worship center, or to arrange for multi-media presentations and other alternate formats is essential for a complete contemporary worship program.

3. WORSHIP PLANNING GROUP

The opportunity for both interested chaplains and laity, especially the young and talented single soldier, to share in the development of up-dated liturgies, folk services, guitar masses and chancel dramas could be a great stimulus for involving a significant segment of the post population which is currently not participating in any chapel program. Such a planning group will assure that worship will be an expression of the experiences, needs and insights of all who participate. The enthusiasm of the lay participants will generate interest and excitement which will attract the "chapel drop-outs" and uninvolved.

4. CHAPEL-IN-THE-ROUND

One proposal is to provide the place and means for such a program as described above and to designate it: Chapel-in-the-Round. Chapel #5, a WWII cantonement-type chapel in good condition, would lend itself to modification and is ideally located for availability to the single-soldier. Modification of Chapel #5 would require the following:

a. Replacement of all fixed pews, pulpit, lecturn, choir-stalls and altar with portable furniture. (Such portable chairs and furniture are in stock at the Fort Emerson Chapel Supply and obtainable by hand-receipt). No cost to the government.

b. Installation of window shades for darkening the chapel for the use of films or drama. Estimated cost: \$300 .G1000

c. Installation of retractable overhead projection screen.

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Estimated cost for screen: \$100 .G1000

d. Installation of retractable stage curtains in the chapel. Estimated cost: \$350 .G1000

e. Portable stage-lighting equipment currently transferrable as excess from Special Services. No cost to the government.

f. Tape deck and cassette deck and mike mixer as completion of existing stereo sound system. Estimated cost: \$650 .G1000

g. Replacement of Chapel #5 carpeting. (Programmed for current fiscal year in Fort Emerson Chapel Budget). Cost: \$1500 .G1000

Note: The above proposed expenditures are funded in the current budget under Chapel facilities, Equipment and Supply.

The advantages of a Chapel-in-the-Round are summarized as follows:

Flexibility. Complete flexibility is provided in at least one installation chapel for a variety of formats in seating and media that is required for a comprehensive program and to avoid half-way approaches.

Support. Interested persons in the community under the leadership and coordination of assigned chaplains will be given encouragement and support to use their varied talents and abilities to develop creative worship services that will meet the spiritual needs of the young adult.

Visibility. The Chapel-in-the-Round gives visibility to a contemporary worship program. Such a center for innovation will not only carry out programs of its own, but will give leadership in developing worship formats and resources which will be adaptable in other post chapels.

Economy. Attempts to up-grade several or all chapel facilities in terms of stereo sound equipment, room darkening and stage lighting modifications would prove costly. The problem of fixed pews and furniture would remain, restricting flexibility. Modifying one chapel at present would require minimal costs to support the program.

Another alternative is to develop a diversified program at the several chapels on post. This conceivably would involve a greater number of persons in the program. However, these chapels at present have strong traditional worship programs which should not be disrupted or curtailed. Innovative worship services would

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be encouraged on an occasional or regular basis in any of the chapels, given the limitations in seating arrangements and equipment cited above. (Disadvantages in costly re-equipping and limited flexibility are the advantages to Chapel-in-the-Round alternative discussed above).

5. SUMMARY.

To provide one Chapel-in-the-Round as a center for developing innovative worship opportunities has great merit. Such a plan does not preclude other chapels from using up-dated liturgies or adapting some of the formats and programs developed at the Chapel-in-the-Round. The concentration of available funds to prepare and support one chapel adequately for the launching of the program is the wiser course of action.



ANNEX B


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SPECIFICATIONS FOR MODIFICATION OF CHAPEL #5

1. Replacement of pews, pulpit, lecturn, altar and choir-stalls with portable furniture. (In-house labor and installation Facilities Engineer assistance required. Portable furniture is already in Installation Property Book inventory). Cost...None.

2. Installation of the following items:

a. Window shades. 10 windows @ \$30=\$300	\$300
b. Overhead retractable projection-screen	100
c. Retractable stage-curtains	350
d. Replacement of carpeting. (budgeted for during the current fiscal year).	1500
e. Tape and cassette decks and mike-mixer.	
1) Teak Tape Deck 4010GSL	425
2) Akai Cassette recorder/player	135
3) Sony Mike-mixer	90
f. Portable stage-lighting. (Available through lateral transfer as excess property from Special Services). No cost.	

TOTAL: \$2900

3. All costs will be covered with .G1000 Appropriated Funds programmed for current fiscal year in Chapel Master Budget for Facilities, Equipment and Supplies.